

**From:** tbrown@orionconsulting.com@inetgw  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/3/02 12:33pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my support of Microsoft and request a swift and fair completion to their litigation. I am both a consumer of Microsoft (MSFT) software and in a business that relies in part on MSFT's success.

As a technology professional, I am keenly aware of the importance of fair competition in our field. Unfair competition or monopolistic behavior is very damaging to us as it slows the development and adoption process of new and better technologies. To this end, I support the prosecution of MSFT and the success the DOJ has had in getting MSFT to stop their unfair practices.

On the other hand, there is an overwhelming danger to our industry if this settlement is drawn out or if the punishment is too severe. MSFT has created some of the best software products on the market today. They create millions of jobs and drive billions of dollars in the U.S. economy. My company and thousands of others are working with MSFT everyday to expand the technological lead the U.S. enjoys over other countries. I rely on them to be successful in selling their software so I can sell consulting services and make my own company profitable. Punishing them unfairly will hurt many innocent people, like myself and my employees.

The settlement with MSFT should be focused on assuring they adhere to open standards for their software and open commercial arrangements for potential resellers or licensees of their technology. The technology industry in the U.S. has tried in vain for years to create a sanctioning organization that everyone subscribes to - fairly. If there is a single greatest opportunity for the DOJ to provide a legacy out this huge prosecutorial effort, it would be in the mandate for the creation of a technology standards council. Companies like MSFT, AOL, Oracle, SAP, HP, Sun, etc would all be required to be involved in and fund this organization. This would allow the technology industry to police itself with oversight by the government.

Our economy has been hurt enough by recent events. Our industry is in its worst slump in 10 years. Please do what you can to reverse this decline, not make it worse.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Brown  
Chicago, IL

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